Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure ~~system~~ device, comprising:

~~a sheath being insertable into a vessel opening;~~

~~a snare being deployed on a first side of the vessel opening;~~

a first needle and a second needle both of which are coupled to the vascular closure device, the first needle and the second needle each being configured to move between a retracted position and an extended position;

a suture ~~being inserted through a second side of the vessel opening, and wherein the snare is configured to grasp the suture and extend the suture across the vessel opening; and~~ configured to move with the first needle from the retracted position to the extended position;

a snare configured to move with the second needle from the retracted position to the extended position; and

a pre-tied knot disposed on a proximal end of the suture such that ~~the~~ a distal end of the suture can be directed through the pre-tied knot to approximate tissue surrounding the ~~vessel~~ opening.

2. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure ~~system~~ device according to claim 1 wherein the snare comprises a wire loop having a memory that causes the wire loop to open in a repeatable orientation.

3. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure ~~system~~ device according to claim 1 wherein the ~~snare comprises a V-shaped wire loop having a memory that causes the wire loop to open in a repeatable orientation~~ first needle and the second needle each extend outward and away from the vascular closure device at an angle of 3° to 20°.

4. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure ~~system~~ device according to claim 1, further comprising a handle set to allow an operator to control ~~the deployment~~ movement of the snare and the suture ~~into the vessel~~, and wherein the pre-tied knot on the proximal end of the suture is releasably attached to the handle set.

5. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure ~~system~~ device according to claim 1 ~~further comprising a hub with a one-way silicone valve that allows devices to be inserted through the sheath while preventing bodily fluids from flowing out via the sheath~~ wherein when the first needle and the second needle are both in the extended position, the snare is configured to grasp the suture so the suture moves with the snare and the second needle as the second needles moves back to the retracted position.

6. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure ~~system~~ device according to claim 1 wherein the pre-tied knot is configured to form a slidable knot that is capable of cinching down ~~over the vessel opening~~ when the distal end of the suture is ~~thread~~ threaded through the pre-tied knot.

7. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure device, comprising:

a snare ~~being insertable into a~~ configured to be inserted through a wall of a blood vessel ~~on a first side of a vessel~~ at a location that is adjacent to an opening in the blood vessel;

a suture ~~having a distal end being insertable into the~~ configured to be inserted through the wall of the blood vessel ~~on a second side of~~ at another location that is adjacent to the ~~vessel~~ opening, the snare also being configured to grasp the suture in the blood vessel and retract the suture through the ~~vessel wall on the first side of the vessel opening;~~ wall of the blood vessel.

~~a pre-tied knot disposed on a proximal end of the suture, wherein the distal end of the suture is directed through the pre-tied knot to approximate tissue surrounding the vessel opening.~~

8. (Original) A vascular closure device according to claim 7 wherein the snare comprises a wire loop having a memory that causes the wire loop to open in a repeatable orientation.

9. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure device according to claim 7 wherein the snare ~~comprises a V-shaped wire loop having a memory that causes the wire loop to open in a repeatable orientation~~ and the suture each move between a retracted position and an extended position to allow the snare and the suture to be inserted through the wall of the blood vessel.

10. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure suturing device according to claim 7 further comprising a handle set to allow an operator to control ~~the deployment~~ movement of the

snare and the suture ~~into the vessel, and wherein the pre-tied knot on the proximal end of the suture is releasably attached to the handle set~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure device according to claim 7, further comprising a ~~hub with a one way silicone valve that allows devices to be inserted through the sheath while preventing bodily fluids from flowing out via the sheath~~ pre-tied knot positioned to receive the suture after the suture is retracted through the wall of the blood vessel by the snare.

12. (Currently Amended) A vascular closure device according to claim 7 ~~wherein the pre-tied knot is configured to form a slidable knot that is capable of cinching down over the vessel opening when the distal end of the suture is thread through the pre-tied knot~~ comprising a first needle and a second needle, the first needle being configured to insert the suture through the wall of the blood vessel and the second needle being configured to insert the snare through the wall of the blood vessel.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of closing a vascular opening utilizing a vascular closure device comprising:

inserting a sheath into a vessel through a vessel opening;

inserting a snare into the vessel on a first side of the vessel opening;

inserting a suture into the vessel on a second side of the vessel opening;

grasping the suture with the snare;

pulling the suture across the vessel opening and through the vessel on the first side of the vessel opening;

directing the distal end of the suture through a pre-tied knot formed at a proximal end of the suture to create a knot to approximate tissue surrounding the vessel opening.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising cinching the knot to approximate tissue surrounding the vessel opening.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising anchoring the sheath inside the vessel with a pair of extendable feet.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising extending a safety wire into the vessel opening such that the safety wire can be used to facilitate reinserting the sheath if the snare fails to grasp the suture.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising disengaging the sheath from the vessel and withdrawing the sheath from the vessel opening such that the suture remains extended across the vessel opening.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising tightening the suture such that the suture approximates tissue surrounding the vessel opening.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A vascular closure device, comprising:

a suture positioned at a distal end of the vascular closure device; and

a pre-tied knot positioned at a proximal end of the vascular closure device;

wherein the vascular closure device is configured to allow the suture to pass through a wall of a blood vessel and on through the pre-tied knot to approximate tissue surrounding an opening in the blood vessel.

22. (New) The vascular closure device according to claim 21 wherein the pre-tied knot is provided on a sleeve that is configured to move from the proximal end of the vascular closure device to the distal end of the vascular closure device.

23. (New) The vascular closure device according to claim 21 comprising a snare which is configured to grasp the suture in the blood vessel and retract the suture through the wall of the blood vessel.

24. (New) A method of closing an opening in a blood vessel with a vascular closure device, comprising:

inserting a suture through a wall of the blood vessel at a location that is adjacent to the opening;

inserting a snare through the wall of the blood vessel at another location that is adjacent to the opening;

grasping the suture with the snare and withdrawing the suture through the wall of the blood vessel; and

tightening the suture to close the opening in the blood vessel.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein tightening the suture includes passing the suture through a pre-tied knot and tightening the knot.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein inserting the suture through the wall includes inserting a needle coupled to the suture through the wall.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein inserting the snare through the wall includes inserting a needle that includes the snare through the wall.

28. (New) The method of claim 24 comprising extending a safety wire through the opening.

29. (New) The method of claim 24 comprising securing the vascular closure device in the blood vessel.